

ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Journal of Proceedings
Thirty-seventh Session of the Synod

The thirty-seventh Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario was held via the Zoom platform October 13-14, 2021.

Executive Officers of the Synod assembled together at Zion Lutheran Church, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

Login to Zoom 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Archbishop Anne Germond welcomed the delegates to Synod. She offered a special welcome to honoured guests:

The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada
The Most Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop
The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary, The Anglican Church of Canada
The Reverend Canon Doctor Judy Rois, Executive Director, The Anglican Foundation of Canada
Mr. Will Postma, Executive Director, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

Opening worship with Archbishop Linda Nicholls preaching.

Archbishop Anne Germond expressed appreciation to our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, for her homily and for being present with Synod.

Call to order by The Most Reverend Anne Germond (The Archbishop)

Introduction of the Head Table by the Archbishop

Members of the Executive Committee

Archdeacon Harry Huskins – Executive Officer

Gilles Tessier – Treasurer

Bryan Finlay – Provincial Chancellor

Laura Walton – Prolocutor

Archdeacon Bill Mous – Diocese of Niagara – communications and technical support; the Archbishop expressed appreciation to Bill for all the efforts he has put into supporting the Province and this Synod.

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to Liz Hamel, her Administrative Assistant, who is acting as recording secretary of the Synod.

Housekeeping arrangements and Zoom protocols outlined by the Archbishop.

Election of the Assessors

Moved by: Harry Huskins
Seconded by: Laura Walton

*That pursuant to Article 8 (b) of the Constitution, the following be elected as assessors:
Bryan Finlay and Henry Schultz*

CARRIED #1

Election of Honorary Secretaries

Moved by: Laura Walton
Seconded by: Harry Huskins

That Haroldine Neil-Burchert be elected as Honorary Lay Secretary and the Venerable Tanya Phibbs be elected as Honorary Clerical Secretary.

CARRIED #2

Agenda check/review

The Archbishop reviewed the agenda and entertained any changes. None identified.

Courtesies of the House

The Archbishop declared Courtesies of the House to the Venerable Larry Armstrong.

Courtesies of the Floor

The Archbishop extended Courtesies of the Floor to the following:

The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, Primate

The Most Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop

The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary

Ms. Janet Marshall

Mr. Ian Alexander

Mr. Jean Bedard

The Reverend Michael Garner, Diocese of Ottawa

The Reverend Canon Doctor Judy Rois, Executive Director, The Anglican Foundation of Canada

Doctor Scott Brubacher, incoming Executive Director, The Anglican Foundation of Canada

Mr. Will Postma, Executive Director, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Right Reverend John Chapman

Omnibus motion organizing synod

Moved by: Bryan Finlay
Seconded by: Harry Huskins

Moved that:

1. The appointment of committees be confirmed.

2. The regrets of absences, greetings, and courtesies of Synod and of the Floor be extended or received, as the case may be.

3. The Report on Credentials in regard to the number of Episcopal, Clerical, and Lay Delegates be regarded as received, and that the Chair, as soon as may be practicable, shall announce the result of such scrutiny.

4. The agenda be adopted.

5. The minutes of the Thirty-sixth Session of Synod, having taken place in Ottawa, Ontario in 2018, be adopted.

6. The Reports and Motions printed or posted on the web as part of the Convening Circular, additional Reports, and additional non-canonical motions be received.

7. The actions of the Provincial Executive Council be approved.

CARRIED #3

Small Group Discussions

Breakout groups randomly chosen to discuss the Theme of Provincial Synod (*In All Our Relations: Love One Another. 1 John 4:7-21*) and how it relates to your Diocesan Context. Some feedback received from breakout groups.

Explanation and Report on Prolocutor Election

Harry Huskins provided details.

The Constitution provides that “there shall be a Prolocutor who shall be elected by the Provincial Synod from the House of Delegates and who shall be the Vice-President of the Provincial Synod. In the absence, or at the request of the Metropolitan, the Prolocutor shall preside at meeting of Provincial Synod.”

The present Prolocutor is Laura Walton. By acclamation she has been re-elected for another term which consists of the next three years.

The Archbishop offered congratulations to Laura.

Laura expressed her appreciation to Synod and indicated she is pleased to carry forward in this role working with Provincial Synod for the next three years.

A “Missional Moment” video was shared from the Diocese of Huron

General Synod Update

The Archbishop welcomed, again, the following people to provide a report on General Synod: The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls (Primate) and the Venerable Alan Perry (General Secretary), with Ian Alexander and Janet Marshall.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls

- we are starting slowly to resume some in-person meetings; National House of Bishops met at Mount Carmel with 2/3 of the house present in person
- how do we move forward and keep everyone safe in our churches?
- work of General Synod has continued even through online connections
- Council of General Synod met twice in person prior to lockdown; met online on numerous occasions; carry out the work of the council in relatively new and innovative ways
- Governance working group has done some significant work on several motions that came out of last General Synod; difficulty with looking at all the possible governance models; now is the opportunity for input through diocesan members
- Strategic Plan working group presentation: *Reimagining The Anglican Church of Canada During a Triennium of Transition – Courageous conversations claiming a vision of transformative change for our church in our time. A Changing Church...A Searching World...A Faithful God*
- engaging with a wide variety of groups; listening, consulting, and hearing back
- more than happy to engage with individual dioceses at their Executive meetings or with other Diocesan gatherings
- two years of work since last General Synod
- strategic planning in a time of pandemic – impossible-essential-liminal times/transitional and transformational; pivoted into “listening” mode
- 11 listening groups/approximately 120 people, up to 3 sessions – diverse membership
- transitional plan – journey not a destination – compass not a road map

June 2021 – First response to some preliminary draft language

November 2021 – in-depth review of first draft of plan

March 2022 – final draft for amendment/ratification

Judith Moses joined the meeting and was offered Courtesies of the Floor by the Archbishop.

She offered comments on the plan:

- umbrella document working with other groups
- not a top down process
- bubbled up from all involved in the church

Five Transformational Aspirations

1. Invites and deepens life in Christ
2. Is intentionally post-colonial and passionately inclusive
3. Embraces mutual interdependence with the Indigenous church (Sacred Circle)
4. Stewards God's creation and attends to the well-being of humankind
5. Lives in relationship with each other in local, diocesan, national, and global communities

October 28th gatherings scheduled.

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to the group for their presentation and entertained questions from the floor.

Final comments: looking forward to the small group conversations; perhaps a venue at extended Executive Council meetings; discussion is about 45 minutes in length.

The group expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present and engage with this Provincial Synod session.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls expressed thanks for allowing her to be with this session during this time.

A "Missional Moment" video was shared from the Diocese of Ottawa

Break

Resumed 2:55 p.m.

Announcement regarding youth delegates to Provincial Synod. Following the Synod proceedings, they will caucus with Laura Walton to determine the youth representative for Provincial Council.

Metropolitan's Report

Archbishop Anne Germond offered her Metropolitan's Report to Provincial Synod, which included a Report from the Ontario House of Bishops and a slide-show presentation. The Reports are attached to these minutes as Appendix #1.

The Archbishop expressed a warm welcome to Mr. Jean Bedard, former Provincial Chancellor, and the Rev. Michael Garner, Diocese of Ottawa.

She expressed extreme appreciation to Michael Garner for his guidance and support during this time of pandemic and for sharing his expertise as an epidemiologist with the Provincial House of Bishops.

The Rev. Michael Garner offered a few words in response to the Archbishop. He expressed his appreciation for her leadership and indicated that he is filled with hope as we move through these challenging times.

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to the Ven. Bill Mous, Executive Archdeacon (Diocese of Niagara), for his communications ministry across the province in providing his time and facilitating this Provincial Synod in addition to helping with provincial communication needs. He is a gift to us.

The Archbishop shared a photo journal Power Point.

The Archbishop expressed special thanks to Jean Bedard as our former Provincial Chancellor. He went above and beyond in whatever was expected in his service to the Province. We were gifted by his knowledge and wisdom and his amazing sense of humour.

Mr. Jean Bedard offered a few words in response. "For a lawyer engaged in the church in this way is a ministry. This has been my guiding principle as I undertook the role. Every day, it was through a sense of service that I was doing it. I am happy that what I have done has been seen as being useful. It has been a great pleasure to serve, especially with members of the House of Bishops and with members of the Provincial Synod Council. It has been a privilege to serve under the leadership of Archbishop Colin and Archbishop Anne and I am thankful for your support and leadership of the province over all the exchanges we have experienced."

The Archbishop introduced the Diocesan chancellors:

Garth O'Neill	(Algoma)
Canon Jim Ferguson	(Huron)
Canon Bryan Finlay	(Moosonee)
Greg Tweney	(Niagara)
Garth Allan	(Ontario)
Henry Schultz	(Ottawa)
Canon Clare Burns	(Toronto)

The Archbishop expressed gratitude to these individuals for the way in which they make themselves available to our Dioceses and to us personally as bishops. You are all generous with your time and provide us with spiritual gifts of knowledge and wisdom.

The Archbishop announced that Canon Bryan Finlay has accepted appointment as our new Provincial Chancellor.

The Archbishop expressed her thanks to those who work closely with her:

Executive Officer	Harry Huskins
Treasurer	Gilles Tessier
Prolocutor	Laura Walton
Communications	Bill Mous

She closed with a prayer for retired Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones whose funeral will be held on October 30th and for all those we have loved and see no longer whom we have lost during this time of pandemic.

Executive Officers' Report

The Ven. Tanya Phibbs, Executive Officer for the Diocese of Huron provided a report on behalf of the Executive Officers of the Province. It is attached as Appendix #2.

The Archbishop expressed thanks to Archdeacon Tanya for her report and indicated how grateful the province is for the collegiality that exists at that level.

A "Missional Moment" video was shared from the Diocese of Ontario

Ontario Provincial Council on Theological Education (OPCOTE)

Bishop John Chapman was to provide a report on the work of this group over the last triennium. He has been called away on an urgent matter this afternoon. A comprehensive report is available on Pages 48-50 of the Convening Circular.

Vocations Conference – June 2022

The Archbishop invited Bishop Susan Bell to speak on the special vocations conference being planned for June 2022.

Bishop Susan advised of the members of the planning committee: Bishop John Chapman (Co-chair), Bishop Susan Bell (Co-chair), Laura Walton (Prolocutor), Archdeacon Jay Koyle (Algoma), Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs (Huron), Bishop Todd Townshend (Huron), Dr. Chris Brittain (Trinity University), Archdeacon Harry Huskins (Provincial Executive Officer), Canon Mary Conliffe (Toronto), Susan Graham Walker (consultant/facilitator), and Archbishop Anne Germond.

Bishop Susan continued with an outline. We had wanted to hold this conference in the spring of 2021 but Covid intervened. Vocation to the priesthood is changing both pre-pandemic and now. We are in "listening" mode to determine a way forward. Our group consists of heads of colleges, Executive Officers, and bishops. We've discussed information in detail and at length. "Pathways to Partnership" is our conference theme. We are hoping to come together to help us to understand the challenges of the colleges and of the church; to address issues affecting theological colleges and dioceses; discover ways for partnerships and integrations; possible sharing of roles. We have ambitious expectations for the conference, for the pre-conference preparation and for the post-conference process. We have been communicating via zoom once a month prior to the conference so we can hit the ground running. We are hoping to identify concrete actual solutions and build trust to work together effectively. The process represents hard work but the dividends could be striking for church and theological colleges. The "Pathways to Partnership" vocations conference will be held at the Nottawasaga Conference Centre – June 21, 2022. We ask for prayers from synod for this landmark conference.

Bishop Susan entertained questions on the conference. Any questions on OPCOTE may be directed to Archdeacon Harry Huskins as a member.

Questions/Comments:

School of Ministry in Moosonee; how best to train people who have a calling especially in some of our remote areas; will this conference create some common ground; also, how is an elder

raised up in a community; we need to focus on how to be Christian but to learn how people are trained in other traditions.

The Archbishop indicated that the National House of Bishops devoted an entire morning discussing the shape of vocation; very different across different contexts; academic and formation is key; we have discovered in Moosonee that ongoing training and academic studies are necessary for formation; all kinds of new possibilities to reach all levels and all contexts; as a church we need to raise up academic and formation as ongoing learning; want the best for peoples' abilities and their contexts.

The upcoming conference is for bishops, heads of colleges, Executive Officers, and anyone who has anything to do with formation for candidates for the priesthood.

Regarding ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination) – are we vetting the process; is it integrated with this process; Bishop Susan is the National and Provincial Bishop for ACPO so, yes, conversations at that level are included.

Diocesan Breakout groups organized to determine Provincial Council representatives.

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to the Ven. Kathryn Otley and the Very Rev. Paul Millward who chaired the Worship Committee – thank you for all you have done to make this synod so spiritual.

The Archbishop welcomed new guests to Synod:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois – Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada

The Archbishop thanked Judy for sharing her many gifts so freely with the Anglican Foundation. Her leadership over the past 11 years has been invaluable. We wish her well as she prepares to begin retirement with her husband, Wes.

Dr. Scott Brubacher – incoming Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada effective October 18th.

Screen sharing was enabled as Judy and Scott offered their presentation on the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

The presentation concentrated on Funding Impact Zones and the “Say Yes! To Kids” funding initiative.

Funding Impact Zones - amounts dispersed over last 10 years

Diverse Infrastructure (2.6 M)

- old and new infrastructure; gardening, solar panels
- improved places where Anglicans gather for ministry

Leadership and Education (1.7 M)

- bursaries and grants to theological institutions and students
- improve accessibility for formation for all students who require it

Community Ministries (1.5M)

- churches have deep roots in communities
- churches can be catalysts for and facilitators of community building projects

Indigenous Ministries (430,000)

- guided by wisdom of Indigenous leaders
- education, healing, and reconciliation

Sacred Music and Liturgical Arts (360,000)

- traditional and innovative liturgical arts

Say Yes! to Kids

Goal was \$100,000; we raised \$110,000; issued RFP this summer with October 1st deadline; we have been overwhelmed with over 80 applications totaling over \$500,000; we are working with finance committee and seeking additional gifts so that we may be as generous as possible with these initiatives for children and youth in communities across the country; 21 out of 30 dioceses were represented in the application process.

Judy Rois expressed appreciation for the generosity displayed with the Say Yes! To Kids initiative as well as overall support for the Foundation. She also offered a personal word of thanks as she prepares to retire.

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to Judy and Scott for their overview of the work of the Anglican Foundation. She congratulated Scott on his appointment as the new Executive Director of AFC and assured him and his partner, Max, of our prayers as he prepares to undertake this new role. She also assured Judy of our prayers as she prepares for retirement and all that will bring into her life and that of her husband.

The session on October 13th concluded with Evening Prayer.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2021

The Archbishop welcomed all delegates back to the second day of Synod. She expressed special thanks to Bishop Cliff for his beautiful “Be at Rest” hymn during Evening Prayer the night before.

Report of the Credentials Committee

In attendance at this Provincial Synod:

8 bishops

34 lay delegates

28 clerical delegates

70 delegates in total

-every eligible person is online except for 2 people

Gospel Based Discipleship

The Archbishop introduced the Most Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, who will lead us through our morning worship in the form of Gospel Based Discipleship.

The Archbishop expressed the appreciation of all delegates for the wonderful experience of Gospel Based Discipleship and for Archbishop Mark’s leadership throughout.

A “Missional Moment” Power Point was shared from the Diocese of Algoma

Report from Eldercare Working Group

Laura Walton, Chair of the Provincial Eldercare Working Group, provided a report on the group’s activities to date. The report is attached to these minutes as Appendix #3. Specifically, at this point in time and to assist the group with moving forward in their mandate, it is requesting for a representative from each diocese to be the link between the group and their diocese. If you have a passion or a desire to assist with this work, please connect with Laura.

The Archbishop expressed gratitude to the group for their commitment and dedication to the task at hand.

Chancellor’s Time

Provincial Chancellor, Canon Bryan Finlay, shared some of his background with delegates. He has been a litigation lawyer for the past 50 years, in Toronto. He was raised in a home of a parish priest and his father had a profound effect on his religious faith. His wife is an ordained priest and his daughter is an Anglican priest. This background and experiences have developed the framework of who he is. He finds it a great privilege to be asked to be the Provincial Chancellor and to fill the shoes of former Chancellor, Jean Bedard.

Chancellor Finlay spoke about the Safe Church working group and, in particular, the one recommendation of the establishment of a Safe Church Response Team comprised of two representatives from each diocese. The expectation for this team is as follows:

- a complaint would be dealt with by the Diocesan Chancellor;
- The Safe Church Resource Team would be available to be called upon to provide an independent investigation of the situation if deemed necessary; this team would be a trained resource for use across the Province.

Currently nine names have been received as potential members of the Safe Church Resource Team. The remaining dioceses will be approached to obtain the other names required.

The floor was opened for questions. None were received.

A “Missional Moment” video was shared from the Diocese of Niagara

Financial Report and Budget

Presented by Gilles Tessier – Provincial Treasurer

Following the example of the National Church and, in consultation with the Executive Officers of the province, in 2022 each diocese in the Province will be given a one month break in apportionment; perhaps dioceses will find a way to share this break in their own contexts.

Gilles reviewed the Financial Statements at December 31, 2020, presented the proposed Budget for 2022, and entertained questions.

2022 Preliminary Budget

Moved by: Gilles Tessier
Seconded by: Laura Walton

That the Preliminary Budget for 2022 be approved.

CARRIED #4

Financial Review Statements

Moved by: Gilles Tessier
Seconded by: Laura Walton

That the Financial Review Statements be accepted.

CARRIED #5

Financial review

Moved by: Gilles Tessier
Seconded by: Laura Walton

That the firm of Joe Ruscio Professional Corporation be appointed to conduct the Financial Review.

CARRIED #6

Break

A “Missional Moment” video was shared from the Diocese of Toronto

Bishop Andrew Asbil expressed appreciation to Archbishop Anne Germond for her leadership, specifically over the last 18 months.

Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund

The Archbishop introduced Mr. Will Postma, Executive Director, Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

Mr. Postma provided a presentation on the work of PWRDF.

Highlights

Love God-Love others

- fund developed to support people in time of crisis
- responding to emergencies and disasters
- support communities to become more self-reliant
- food security
- strong future for girls and women

Areas of Focus

- The PWRDF Difference – sustainable development working with trusted partners on the ground
- Preventive Health – improved quality of life through access and education for all
- Food Security – agricultural education initiatives in the face of climate change
- Empowering Women – microfinance programs and gender-based violence prevention
- Indigenous Programs – reconciliation support through language recovery, responsive grants and more
- Humanitarian Response – short- and long-term disaster relief at home and abroad
- Supporting Refugees – accompanying refugees and displace people at home and abroad
- Public Engagement – engaging Canadians to learn about PWRDF’s partners and programs

The secret sauce in all these initiatives is you...Anglicans in the pews...financially and by prayer support.

Vaccine Equity - there is a huge inequity in vaccine distribution across the world. This initiative is encouraging Canadians to donate when they get vaccinated to support vaccine distribution in other countries where it is not readily available.

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples – community health, empowering youth, safe water, climate action – Indigenous Responsive Support Program – engaging with Indigenous partners

World of Gifts catalogue - supports partners and PWRDF initiatives

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to Will for his presentation and opened the floor for questions or comments.

A “Missional Moment” was shared from the Diocese of Moosonee

Provincial Council

Laura Walton provided a list of the elected representatives for Provincial Council from each diocese.

The Diocese of Algoma

Archbishop Anne Germond
The Ven. Kelly Baetz
Ms. Alison Weir

The Diocese of Huron

Bishop Todd Townshend
The Rev. Dr. Grayhame Bowcott
Mr. David Embury

The Diocese of Moosonee

Archbishop Fred Hiltz
The Rev. George Westgate
Ms. Evadny Coonishish

The Diocese of Niagara

Bishop Susan Bell
The Rev. Rob Towler
Mr. Andrew Clinkard

The Diocese of Ontario

Bishop Michael Oulton
The Ven. Nancy McLeod
Brother Peter Cory

The Diocese of Ottawa

Bishop Shane Parker
The Ven. Kathryn Otley
Ms. Lily Frampton

The Diocese of Toronto

Bishop Andrew Asbil
The Rev. Dana Dickson
Ms. Bronte Anderson

Youth delegates will be determined at a later date.

The Archbishop indicated that copies of her report and closing reflection will be posted on the Provincial website.

Vote of Thanks

The Vote of Thanks was offered by Laura Walton, Michael Oulton, and Anne-Marie Carriere. It is attached to these minutes as Appendix #4.

Rite of Sending Forth**Prorogation of Synod**

The Archbishop concurred with all actions of this Synod and prorogued it. She expressed appreciation to everyone for their part, their hearts, and their participation.



Archbishop Anne Germond's Report to
The Thirty -Seventh Session of the Provincial Synod
The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario
The Anglican Church of Canada
October 13th 2021

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

Introduction – Welcome at the beginning of Provincial Synod.

Welcome one and all to the 37th Session of the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, held virtually in these extraordinary times. I extend a special welcome to honoured guests including the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, the National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald, the General Secretary of the Anglican Church Archdeacon Alan Perry, as well as the Executive Directors of the Anglican Foundation of Canada Judy Rois and PWRDF Will Postma.

For some of you this is your very first Provincial Synod, while for others it is your 9th or 10th – each one is welcome and I hope that you will find this an enriching experience. We are here from the dioceses of Niagara, Huron, Toronto, Ontario, Ottawa, Moosonee and Algoma for a gathering that was to be held in person where I am in Sault Ste. Marie or 'Bawating' in Ojibway, meaning the place of the rapids. Bawating has been an important gathering place of Indigenous peoples for thousands of years and continues to be to this time.

Bawating is on Robinson Huron Treaty territory and is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, specifically the Garden River and Batchewana First Nations and the Metis. Bawating was once the home of Chief Shingwauk who represented the Ojibway in the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty in 1850. One of the features of this Treaty was the

setting aside of Garden River for the Ojibways. Shingwauk was converted to the Church of England and before his death Chief Shingwauk, was baptised, and his final resting place is beneath the altar of St. John's Anglican Church in Garden River.

Shingwauk's passion was for education. In 1832 he snowshoed to York (Toronto) to petition the Lieutenant Governor John Colbourne for a school, styled as a 'Teaching Wigwam', which would be present throughout the Anishnabek Lands to provide a European style of education to indigenous children while still allowing them to maintain their indigenous rituals and hold onto the teachings of their grandfathers – the wisdom-keepers of his time.

Sadly, Chief Shingwauk's vision of a 'teaching wigwam' did not come to fruition in the way he envisioned as the government's policy of integration and assimilation clashed with his ideal. We are all aware of the legacy of the Residential Schools which is also part of the tragic history of the Anglican Church of Canada. We own our role in the past and through apology and commitment to education, awareness, understanding and relationship building the church is working to move forward on the path of truth, justice - seeking, healing and reconciliation in a good way.

This was my prayer as a few weeks ago I sat with indigenous and non indigenous people from all walks of life at a sacred fire in the arbour on the site of the former Shingwauk Residential School ahead of a ground search on those grounds for the remains of children who might be in unmarked burial sites. In the light and warm of that fire we asked the Creator to be our guide.

An 'in person' Provincial Synod would have seen us visiting these and other important landmarks in Bawating so that you could come to know something of its painful history as well as the great hope for reconciliation that is evident here today. We would have taken you to visit the Residential School Centre where the stories of residential school survivors are told in words and pictures on the hallways of the former school.

You would have walked from there to the Shingwauk Chapel, built by the children and teachers of the school with the words 'Looking Unto Jesus' imprinted on its walls. Survivors of Shingwauk say that the chapel was an important gathering place because it was on of the rare occasions that sisters and brothers could see each other. We would have prayed at the Shingwauk Cemetery for the children at Shingwauk who never went home to parents and loved ones.

And finally, we would have taken you to the newly constructed Anishinabek Discovery Centre designed to support Shingwauk Kinomaage Gamig the indigenous led institute which one day will be a repository for Indigenous information, research and scholarship.

While an in person Synod has not been possible this year, I pray that there will one day be an opportunity for everyone to gather at 'Bawating' – the place of the rapids, place of hope and healing.

Part Two: Report of the Metropolitan

Loving Our Neighbours – pandemic times

It is with great humility and a thankful heart that I offer my first report as Metropolitan to this Provincial Synod gathering with the chosen theme:

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4.7)

The phrase “Loving Our Neighbours” undergirded our lives as Anglican Christians in Ontario during this time of pandemic. The first pastoral letter from the House of Bishops on March 13th, 2020, reminded us that the ancient prophet Jeremiah exhorted God’s people in exile to ‘seek the welfare of the city’ (Jer. 29.7) in which they were living, and asked us all to do the same in Covid-time by staying home, staying apart when together, masking, handwashing and getting vaccinated.

I was never been more proud to call myself a Christian than I was during the pandemic as followers of Jesus in our churches became visible signs of God’s unconditional love to one another. As our world was being torn apart by fear, uncertainty, panic, and hopelessness, we had the privileged vocation of being living signs of a Love that can bridge all anxieties and heal all wounds. Many people said of us, “See how they love one another”, and in that catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of God that Jesus announced.

I know that I speak on behalf of all the bishops in the Ontario House when I express my deepest gratitude to the faithful, obedient and prayerful way in which Anglicans around the province responded during the last eighteen months to the many directives coming at them from every side - local health authorities, provincial and federal government, and of course the church.

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. During the pandemic this meant setting aside the usual patterns of being church such as finding creative ways to worship beyond the walls of our church buildings ministering in ways which were different from usual. Some of those will be shared in the missional moments during this Synod.

Sadly, ‘Love of Neighbour’ was not everyone’s lived experience or reality during the pandemic. The last eighteen months have been a costly time in a world which has been laid bare through Covid -19 and also in unconscionable acts of violence, systemic racism and discrimination, in the reliving of traumatizing events of life in residential school following the discovery of unmarked burial sites on residential school properties, economic crises, the jeopardy of democratic institutions and natural disasters resulting from climate change.

We have seen with our own eyes the full impact of the pandemic on those who live on the margins of society. While the words 'we are all in this together' was the catch phrase in the beginning of the pandemic, the lived reality locally and globally was very different for poor families living in overcrowded conditions, for racialized communities, for the frail elderly living in long term care facilities or nursing homes, for those living with or experiencing homelessness, those who did not have access to health care and life saving treatments, for essential and frontline workers and those who could not afford to stay home and isolate because their country did not offer a wage subsidy program.

This backdrop with all its injustices and hardships, along with this ongoing time of pandemic being referred to by so many 'as liminal time' (Rev. Susan Beaumont; Fr. Richard Rohr) a time of waiting after an ending for something new to begin, needs both to inform and form our conversations next spring as we determine our priorities for the coming triennium.

The Ontario House of Bishops in pandemic times

The Ontario House of Bishops typically meets in person twice a year and corresponds via email, text or phone in between. Our ecclesiology is that dioceses operate independently of one another within the framework of national, provincial and diocesan canons and constitutions.

With so much at stake and not wanting our individual dioceses to be receiving conflicting or mixed messages about the pandemic as it unfolded quickly before our eyes, at the beginning of the pandemic we began conferring with one another on a daily basis. We made decisions about the closure or reopening of church buildings in consultation and collaboration with experts in their field keeping Anglicans across the province apprised of all changes. Not only did we work on pandemic matters together but we leaned on one another for support and regularly prayed for and with each other.

We worked on the precept that '*A word from one was a word from all*' as we prepared pastoral letters on Covid protocols and guidelines for a three staged approach to re-entry into church buildings as we 'sought the welfare of the cities in which we live'. The document "Road Map to Reopen" colour coded in RED, AMBER and GREEN stages remains an important guide to this day.

The Rev. Michael Garner, priest in the Diocese of Ottawa and our epidemiological advisor was quick to point out that public health was everyone's business and our ministry during the pandemic. Our knowledge and understanding of viruses increased exponentially as we learned about how infectious the coronavirus was. Our lexicon increased too as we befriended new words and phrases like 'social distancing', 'masking', 'pivoting' 'being nimble' and 'you need to unmute'. Prayer, and our faith and trust in God united us and held us together when everything around was out of control.

What a privilege it has been and continues to be to work with such a strong, gifted, committed and faithful group of leaders – Bishops, Executive Officers and other diocesan team members, Chancellors, Epidemiologists and Health Authorities, who advised us and worked tirelessly to do the very best we could during this time. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. There is no doubt in my mind that God’s prevenient grace has been at work during the last 18 months and that each person who has offered leadership was chosen by God for just such a time as this.

Even though we now have the vaccine to protect us from the virus we see that things are not yet back to normal. While most Canadians have the opportunity to receive full vaccine coverage there are many countries in the world where this is not the case. Virus spread is real possibility and we must prepare to be long haulers of this pandemic. Epidemiologists are predicting that it may be another two years before this is all over. As God’s faithful people we remain ‘joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer’ (Romans 12.12), lifting our eyes to God whose unending faithfulness, generosity and graciousness sustains us.

The provincial response during pandemic time has been prophetic, pastoral and prayerful - may this continue to be so as we live in this in between time and eventually move out of it.

I have invited the Rev. Michael Garner to be present at Provincial Synod during my report so that on behalf of all of us I can extend our deepest thanks for the generous way in which he shared his time and knowledge with us. Rev. Michael’s expert advice and the very helpful way in which he offered it was really appreciated. The information he shared with us became a key component of almost all of the protocols and guidelines for reopening that we have produced. Three weeks ago he drove to Niagara Falls to make a presentation to the National House of Bishops and it was as well received by the other bishops in the House.

And I would like to thank Archdeacon Bill Mous for his tremendous help in formatting and facilitating communications across the province, being the link Executive Officer between the Eos and House of Bishops. Archdeacon Bill has a fulltime ministry as the Executive Archdeacon for the Diocese of Niagara but is always available and willing to help, generous with his time and very patient.

Provincial Executive Council meetings and Small Committee Work in the last Triennium

While an in person Synod was not possible this fall, God- willing, the first gathering of the Provincial Executive Council will be in person in Toronto next spring. I look forward to welcoming the representatives who will be selected from amongst your diocesan delegation. We will begin the triennium in prayer and worship and placing the Gospel in

the centre of the sacred circle, and in our time of discussion and fellowship discern together what God is calling us to do as an ecclesiastical province as we emerge from the Covid -19 pandemic.

Selecting the priorities for Provincial Executive Council's work together has always been important in Ontario and there have been some very positive and collaborative initiatives being undertaken in areas of Homelessness, Elder Care, the TRC Calls to Action, Creation Care. Being a member of Provincial Executive Council is a day's commitment twice a year with occasional small committee work.

In addition to the important work of guiding the province through the pandemic other collaborative work is taking place. At the request of the Provincial House of Bishops the "*Ontario Safe Church Working Group*" was formed in June 2018 to make recommendations to the House regarding the risks facing the Church generally regarding Safe Church matters; how they may be addressed by a Model Safe Church Canon along with the risks and benefits of such a Canon, and whether opportunities exist to implement sharing of services across the Province regarding Safe Church matters (for example in carry out investigations).

The Provincial Chancellor Bryan Finlay will speak to this and other legal matters in the time he has on the agenda tomorrow. This will include the outcome of the Final Report of the Ontario Safe Church Working Group which was presented to the House of Bishops in September 2020. We are grateful for the expertise represented in the Working Group diocesan Chancellors Chris Sinal VC Huron) – Chair, Clare Burns (C Toronto), Greg Tweney (C Niagara) and Garth O'Neill (C Algoma) and for their time and wise counsel.

The House of Bishops has endorsed all four recommendations of the Working Group which are -

- That there be No Provincial Safe Church Canon
- That provincial wide Safe Church Training be implemented for diocesan officials managing Safe Church matters or conducting Safe Church investigations
- That there be Information Sharing between dioceses
- And that a Safe Church Resource Team (SCRT) be created which will be available to assist dioceses throughout the province in the event that a Safe Church matter arises requiring specialized expertise that is not locally available.

The Provincial Chancellor is taking the lead on this very important work, along with other Chancellors and some of the HR personnel and Executive Officers. A report on the SCRT will be brought to the spring Provincial Executive Council meeting.

The other area in which I would like to see collaboration between the dioceses is in anti-racism education, awareness and training. The Primate named this as a priority for her and the National House of Bishops devoted a whole morning to it at our recent meeting

in Niagara Falls. We heard from dioceses around the country who have already implemented or are engaged in anti racism training workshops, including three within the province of Ontario, with other dioceses in the early stages of this work. It would be really helpful for the dioceses who do not have the capacity or resources to lead their own programs to use resources developed by other dioceses.

We are fortunate in the province to have Secretariat members who act as liaison for each of the three political Parties at Queen's Park to advise me, the House of Bishops, and the Provincial Synod on matters relating to the Ontario provincial government. As the Executive Officer Archdeacon Harry Huskins notes in his report on Government Relations, the Secretariat, "keeps the Church informed of governmental matters and issues of emerging importance and they advocate the policy positions taken by the Synod and the House with their political parties." I am grateful to Donna Cansfield (Liberal Party), Terence Young (Conservative Party) and David Krause (the New Democratic Party) for their generosity of time and expertise over the years.

The Ontario House of Bishops

I am thankful more than I can ever properly express for the *koinonia* of my colleagues in the Ontario House of Bishops who have shared with me in witnessing to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the prayerful and practical support they have offered from the day of my election as Metropolitan for Ontario until now.

Bishop Andrew Asbil – Diocese of Toronto

Bishop Kevin Robertson – Diocese of Toronto

Bishop Riscylla Walsh – Shaw - Diocese of Toronto

Bishop Shane Parker – Diocese of Ottawa

Bishop Michael Oulton – Diocese of Ontario

Bishop Susan Bell – Diocese of Niagara

Bishop Todd Townshend – Bishop of Huron

Archbishop Fred Hiltz – Assisting Bishop of Moosonee.

Here is a photo journal of some of our activities from the last Provincial Synod in Ottawa until now. There have been several changes to the Ontario House since the last Provincial Synod through retirements or changes to their ministry.

Archbishop Colin Johnson, Metropolitan and Archbishop of Toronto and Moosonee retired at the end of 2018.

Bishop Andrew Asbil was installed as the 12th Bishop of Toronto on 13th January, 2019 at St. James Cathedral.

In July 2019 Bishop Linda Nicholls was elected Primate of Canada and Todd Townshend was elected the 14th Bishop of Huron on October 26th of that year. The service consecration on January 25th, 2020 was the last time the Ontario House of Bishops gathered together for an in person celebration of consecration.

Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop of Moosonee retired in May 2019. I invited Archbishop Fred Hiltz, former Primate of Canada to be the Assisting Bishop.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz accepted my invitation to be the Assisting Bishop of Moosonee in January 2020 and is leading that diocese through a 'Season of Discernment' about the shape of episcopal leadership and the future of ministry.

Bishop John Chapman (Ottawa) announced his retirement and on March 14th 2020 Shane Parker was elected the 10th Bishop of Ottawa. His consecration, livestreamed with the bare minimum of participants in Christ Church Cathedral, was filled with the Spirit as we experienced the presence of the prayers of the wider church and knew that we were in the great company of the heavenly hosts.

In July 2020 Bishop Peter Fenty retired as Suffragan Bishop of the York- Simcoe Area of Toronto and in March 2021 Bishop Jenny Andison accepted a new charge of being the Incumbent of St. Paul's Bloor Street.

Sadly, one of our beloved bishops, The Right Reverend Michael Bedford Jones died in April 2018. He served as Suffragan Bishop of Toronto from 1994 until 2008 as Area Bishop of York Scarborough and then Trent Durham. May he rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

Our 'House' has always enjoyed collegial working relationships and the best fellowship. We wanted to honour all of our colleagues who were leaving and had several online parties to give thanks for their ministries and to 'toast and roast them'.

In closing...

On behalf of the entire Province I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Jean Bedard for his faithful ministry as Provincial Chancellor from 2016 until this year. Jean is joining us for this portion of the Synod so that he can hear these words of thanks. In addition to attending Provincial Synod, Executive Council and the consecration of bishops in the province the Provincial Chancellor is there to advise the Metropolitan and Executive Council.

Like so many diocesan Chancellors Jean went above and beyond what was ever expected of him in his service to Ontario, making himself available at a moment's notice when needed. Jean, as many of you know has a brilliant mind having been blessed with the

spiritual gifts of knowledge and wisdom. He also has an amazing sense of humour using turns of phrase that have become part of the official lexicon of one or two of us. Jean and his spouse Michele are members of St. Thomas's Anglican Church in the Diocese of Ottawa.

Chancellor Bryan Finlay has accepted my invitation to be the new Provincial Chancellor. He already serves as the Chancellor for Moosonee and brings to every conversation his own deep faith and the greater good of the church.

To those who work closest to me in this role, Executive Officer Harry Huskins (This is Harry's 9th Provincial Synod), Treasurer Gilles Tessier, Prolocutor Laura Walton, Chancellor Bryan Finlay and Archdeacon Bill Mous – thank you for your steadfast faithful leadership in Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,

+Anne

13th October, 2021

Report to the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario
On behalf of the Diocesan Executive Officers

The seeds of the Diocesan Executive Officer conversations were planted in 2013 with the beginning of the Senior Staff consultations. These meetings allowed senior staff from the seven dioceses to share best practices as well as hearing presentations from a number of different organizations and on a number of topics such as the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Safe Church, Heritage issues, Insurance, Pension, Benefits and more. These twice-yearly meetings eventually developed into a pattern of the executive officers meeting with the Provincial House of Bishops for a morning, then the executive officers meeting in the afternoon before being joined by other senior staff for the evening and the next day. These gatherings have been---and hopefully will be again--- a good use of our time and of the resources of the province. We have been grateful to the province for funding these meetings.

In 2018, a motion was brought to Provincial Synod to move deeper into collaboration among the dioceses. The motion, "that this Provincial Synod affirms the principle that the Dioceses of our Province should engage in greater collaboration and common action towards the integration of their diocesan office operations; reserving always the right not to participate in such collaboration and common action because of the particular circumstances of that Diocese that time" was passed. As we moved into the previous triennium, priorities for this work began to take shape. Some of the executive officers and other senior staff took leadership in different areas including the formation of some small working groups. Alex Pierson of the Diocese of Ontario took the lead in looking at the Financial Management area while the chancellors collectively took the lead in the Safe Church area.

And then came COVID-19.

Shortly after our bishops made the first difficult decisions to suspend in-person worship and other activities in our churches, the executive officers held our first virtual meeting which turned into weekly meetings for the next 15 months. COVID-19 protocols dominated most of those meetings as we discussed government regulations, health and cleaning practices, financial concerns, concerns for clergy wellness and more. Even keeping up with the constant government press conferences outlining the latest changes to provincial COVID regulations took up a fair bit of time but the ability to email each other and clarify what we thought we had heard was invaluable. In all our discussions we sought for the best advice to share with our bishops and other diocesan leaders. Even the ability to know what other dioceses were thinking and planning was immensely helpful. We were grateful to be invited to the House of Bishops meetings when the Rev. Dr. Michael Garner shared an epidemiological perspective on COVID-19 which helped inform our perspectives and protocols.

As we became more used to dealing with COVID, it no longer dominated the conversations to quite the same degree. Although most things are affected by COVID in one

way or another, we have more time to talk about insurance, postulancy processes, deacons, post-ordination training, the BAO, AODA, designated materials surveys---more 'normal' things. In June, we decided to reduce our meetings to once monthly though most weeks in between one of us fires off a quick email to the others, asking a question, seeking other dioceses' practice on a particular issues, or borrowing policies and procedures from one another that can be adapted to our own diocesan context. While the last 18 months have in some ways put a pause on the work envisioned in the motion passed three years ago as energy and time shifted to dealing with COVID, the executive officers have worked together much more closely than we might have otherwise, which will be of benefit when we are able to turn more attention again to examining ways in which our dioceses may work together. As each diocese---as our ecclesiastical province---turns its attention to what the post-pandemic church will look like, this is also an opportunity to consider those areas where working together makes the most sense. Insurance is one such area where working together may uncover different options for insuring our dioceses and parishes in order to have the insurance we need but not more than we need. The work around various government regulations will also continue. There may be other areas that the House of Bishops or Provincial Council would like us to consider as priorities over the next triennium. The executive officers are not a decision making group in the structure of either the province or our dioceses but working together where and when possible allows for a synergy of experience, ideas and resources that is good for our dioceses and for the province as a whole. Our conversations often spare us from 're-inventing the wheel', allowing less time to be spent on some of our operational tasks in order to free up energy and resources---ours and others--- to further God's mission in our dioceses and province. We are thankful for the technology that has allowed us to keep up our conversations over the past while and also hope to be able to resume our in-person meetings sometime next year. We are grateful for the support of the Province and our Dioceses as we do this work and for the gift of colleagues that work well together.

Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Tanya Phibbs

Good morning. Archbishop Anne has gathered a small group of lay and clergy from across our ecclesiastical province to work on critical aspects of eldercare that were brought to light when the pandemic deaths began to rise in early 2020. While much of our synods provincial work had to be put on hold with the pandemic, the devastation that became visible in Ontario's Long Term Care homes made it clear that eldercare issues both in and out of the health care system had become critical.

Here is some background information to help explain the depth of the issues that this new working group has had to come to grips with and get up to speed on in the last 18 months:

Up until 2020 the care of many of our elders has been a generally obscure part of the health care system. It was surprising to learn about its scope. The Province of Ontario has 626 licensed Long Term Care homes and over 77,000 long-stay beds. 58% of long term care homes are privately owned, 26% are non-profit or charitable and 16% are municipal. These numbers do not include retirement homes, assisted living or unlicensed care. There is a waitlist for long term beds of almost 35,000 individuals in the province. This means placement near family can be problematic, patients are stuck in hospitals long term and couples can be split up as keeping families together is not always doable. Almost 300 of these Long Term Care homes that include 30,000 beds are outdated and need to have significant work done. Many of those are the for profit homes.

These numbers became even more daunting when our group looked at what happened to this older demographic when the pandemic hit. When you look at the data, deaths in long term care from COVID-19 outpaced the general population. While this is already generally known, there is further data that compares deaths in long term care throughout 16 countries that are part of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. This data looks at the proportion of deaths in Long term care compared to all covid-19 deaths in the general population. Canada is at 81% and has the highest proportion of Covid deaths in long term care when compared to our general population. This is the highest rate when compared to the other 16 countries. 81%. We are #1 in long term care deaths from Covid-19. That number is shocking. The majority of these deaths in Canada were in Ontario.

So, what do we do with these numbers? The working group began to analyze how we can best support the elderly and caregivers in our province. The statistics are all about what happens in the healthcare system, but we also have to include the many who are outside of it as well. We realized that we need to do something concrete to address the issues of not only poor care in our long term homes but also address the issues of abuse, neglect and loneliness that is found outside of them as well.

While advocacy is always an important part of our church, eldercare is going to become more and more prevalent as a ministry need. The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario's churches are home to over 700 congregations with over 600 clergy and 45000 people worshipping pre-pandemic in-person every Sunday. These statistics show that there are active and busy parishes

that are contributing in deeply meaningful ways to our communities. However, as active as they are, many congregations are made up of seniors who are doing ministry and others who are no longer able. This growing demographic will need more and more support as the numbers climb. How do we as church, support them especially when they are no longer active in parish and diocesan life? The demographics show an aging church population, so we have to shift and change to meet those needs. That significant group of elders in our communities should be part of our pastoral focus if they aren't already.

It is important to see the reality that these numbers represent, we are not a dying church, we are one that is redefining our ministries. Our working group wants to help shift the mindset so seniors ministry is present and that includes support, resources and advocacy. It means that no matter what is at the forefront of the news cycle, how many outreach ministries the church offers, the need for eldercare within our parishes and our communities needs to be a central piece of diocesan and parish life and become a constant. Each ministry is important in and of itself.

Finding out what was needed was the groups starting point. As with many of the issues in the world, the new cycle often dictates focus. The work of this group stalled once the news cycle on the Long Term Care issues slowed down. The shock wore off and the news stories moved on. We were left with interspersed input from our 7 Diocese and unsure of where to even begin to tackle what felt like an overwhelming problem. After many conversations and frustrations, we have begun the process of tackling this multifaceted issue by beginning to create resources and looking at advocacy.

Our group sent out a letter out in the spring requesting diocesan input. What we got back was limited but all of it was helpful. The responses were from seniors, long term care workers, nurses, lawyers, priests, caregivers, chaplains and parish committees. They said they wanted resources for seniors and caregivers, parish support for those who were not able to attend church, the ability to understand reporting guidelines when it came to abuse and need for care. People also wanted to learn about advocacy. Many stated that there needs to be a way to have our Provincial voice heard on the issue of halting for-profit long term care homes. This is backed by studies showing that with 58% of care homes being privately owned there are care issues there. Multiple studies show that the infection rate is higher than in not-for-profit, as are deaths. There are less staff, lower wages, less infection control and reduced care in many of them.

With this in mind, we are taking a two-pronged approach as we start our work. Our first work will be in the area of resources. We hope to have a representative from each Diocese who will make it their priority to be the link between the provincial working group and their home diocese. They will help us research what is already in place and the gaps in each area. We do not want to reinvent the wheel. They will also make sure that when resources are ready, they get to where they need to be it at a diocesan or the parish level. There is nothing worse than having resources that then sit unread and are under-utilized.

These resources will not just be links to sites and information. We hope it will be programs, assistance and community that will interact. We have had offers from parishes that already have programs in place such as St. Clements in Toronto and we are hoping to work with their Diocesan committee on Senior's ministry. We have also recently been approached by Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (also known as ACE law). They are a legal advocacy group for seniors and want to work with us building support as we move the resources into place. We are pleasantly surprised that so many are looking to build a wider team in both the diocesan and secular world creating a support system that goes from the most basic of parish involvement right up to the government level of advocacy. With these resources in place, we can then move on to working on advocacy and pushing for change in the system. One area of work will blend with the second.

While all this is in the works, we need help. We are a small volunteer group that needs commitment from our provincial synod members to make this work happen and put it to good use. This group was created when the need to address seniors' issues became clear but simply having us meet without the work going somewhere is just a make-work project. We need buy-in from all levels of the ecclesiastical province. For many of you, it will simply be that you agree to pass on an email, resource or information as needed, but we also need a rep from each Diocese to take a more active role in the work. Someone willing to connect with the core working group, help with research and also be the link between province and diocese. If this is something you are interested in, please be in touch with me. This link is important to our next steps.

We understand that we are not the only group with an important mandate. There are so many areas of focus that need addressing coming out of the pandemic and only so much energy and time to give to them. However, we want to do our part to protect those seniors who need our support and are vulnerable. Many have given so much to build our parishes and church. They and others in the community deserve our support so they are safe and cared for whether they are part of a church family or part of the wider community. The eldercare working group will not ask for a lot of your time but a willingness to engage. Many hands make the work less daunting and make sure that resources are available quicker and our advocacy for change in the eldercare system can be heard.

Thank you.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/epi/2020/06/covid-19-epi-ltch-residents.pdf?la=en>

<https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/sciencebrief/covid-19-and-ontarios-long-term-care-homes-2/>

<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/192/33/E946>

Committee of Thanks – Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

Rev. Anne-Marie.

Our small Committee of Thanks would like to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many people who helped to make the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario's Synod possible. It was no easy task to coordinate work being done in person as well as on the ground in Sault Ste Marie let alone coordinating a Zoom meeting to gather all of us from our 7 Diocese.

We want to begin by extending our thanks to Archdeacon Bill Mous. Bill was a significant part of our planning committee but went above and beyond to coordinate our online presence across Ontario. Without his technical support, skills and hard work we would have struggled to put this meeting online. His work is deeply appreciated.

Our thanks are also given to the planning committee that included Archbishop Anne, Harry Huskins, Bill Mous, Gilles Tessier, Bryan Finlay, Liz Hamel and Laura Walton. Coordinating a full provincial synod in a hybrid format took some new ways of thinking and organizing.

The worship committee of Kathryn Otley and Paul Millward worked hard to not only create our worship together but coordinate PowerPoints, music and service participants as well. Our thanks to them for all they have done. These thanks must also extend to all who participated in the services musically and as readers and intercessors. Please accept our thanks for sharing your time, energy and talent.

Bishop Michael

Our Committee of Thanks would also like to thank our guests who took time out of their busy schedules to join us. Thank you to our primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls and National Indigenous Archbishop Mark Macdonald for their wise words and counsel.

Our gratitude is also extended to Alan Perry, Judy Rois, Scott Brubacher, Will Postma, Janet Marshall, Judith Moses and Ian Alexander who all offered important insight into the work being done in the wider Anglican Church. While we are currently limited to meeting online, they have shown how important work in our extended communities continues.

This synod would also like to offer our thanks to those who helped behind the scenes and got the Sault Ste. Marie team organized. Liz Hamel, Jennifer Baron and Alison Weir along with Brad Mittleholtz and the Zion Lutheran Church who hosted us. We are also thankful to the Diocese of Algoma for welcoming our team.

Laura

Thanks, are also given to all of you who have joined as provincial synod delegates. Provincial Synod is often the entity found working in the background of many important projects that not only address our changing times within our province but advocate for social justice and build stronger connections between our 7 diocese. Your choice to be part of this is important and

appreciated. Don't ever think your contribution is not seen. Your gifts and input are a significant part of the work we do.

Our final round of thanks is to our Archbishop Anne. You have led us through a pandemic with wise words, good counsel and grace. Our Ecclesiastical province has weathered the pandemic and continued to be strong with your leadership. Your kindness and thoughtful ways along with your continuous support for our province in the most challenging times is something for which we are most thankful.

Our committee of thanks closes by thanking God for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Our provincial synod has been made richer with members who have offered their time, their talents and wisdom. We give thanks for all until we meet again.